Middlesex Township Board of Supervisors
Minutes of Regular Meeting
April 16, 2014

Board of Supervisors:

Mike Spreng
Donald Marshall
James (Hap) Evans

Staff Present:

Scot E. Fodi, Township Manager
Bonnie R. Chappel, Assistant to the Manager
John Rusnak, Township-Appointed Engineer
Michael Hnath, Township Solicitor

Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the Middlesex Township Board of Supervisors was called to order at 6:32 p.m. by Chairman Mike Spreng.

Pledge of Allegiance / Moment of Silence

Chairman Spreng led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a Moment of Silence for our citizens currently serving in the Armed Services.

Executive Session

An executive session was held from 5:05 pm to 5:40 pm this evening to discuss personnel matters and possible litigation.

Public Comment – Items on the Agenda

Public comment was heard at this time regarding item the Geyer Farm Well Pad. It was commented that in order to speak, you must be a resident or tax payer of Middlesex Township.

Jennifer Chomicki of 1015 Marsh Drive presented a written PowerPoint presentation to the BOS and her comments were regarding the environmental and health risks of drilling.

Diane Arnold of 1461 East Cruikshank reminded the BOS that they had written a letter supporting a lawsuit filed by a township in Westmoreland County.
Crystal Yost of 288 Kozy Corner Road spoke regarding the questions posed to the BOS a month ago to which there has been no reply. Also she asked if an attorney retained by the residents would be permitted to speak. (The attorney was not permitted to speak as he was not a resident of the Township)

Michael Hnath, the Township Solicitor responded that he has spoken to Mr. Yeager (Attorney retained by residents) regarding their concerns.

Ryan Dewey of 251A Forsythe Road commented on the percentage of the Township that has already been leased for drilling.

Brian Cress of 342 Denny Road commented on the benefits of drilling.

John Utz of 203 Valley Drive spoke regarding the minimal risk of drilling and that he appreciates everything the BOS are doing.

Mike Vasilj of 107 Pointe Drive called for a common sense approach to drilling and is pro-drilling.

Shelly Titchen of Lot #3 West Cruikshank Road discussed the recent violations and accidents attributed to gas drilling. She implored the BOS to listen to the attorney/expert that the residents had brought.

Janice Kennedy of Deer Meadow Lane spoke about farmer’s and landowner’s right to lease and mentioned excerpts from iMerrie Olde Middlesexi a historical book about the Township.

Cameron Martin of 1019 Marsh Drive commented that he has worked in the nuclear power for thirteen years. His discussion centered on gathering facts, both pro and con and wanted to know more about an evacuation plan.

Jason Yost of 288 Kozy Corner Road quoted the Township’s Zoning Ordinance regarding permitted uses in the R-AG district and challenged the BOS to adhere to the zoning ordinance as written.

Rich Bitzer of 123 Love Road commented that the Geyer Farm Well Pad should be approved.

Ping Pırırung of 156 West Cruikshank brought up the topic of fresh, clean water being denied to residents because of drilling.

Diane Cornelly of 3007 Falcon Drive implored the BOS to say no to drilling for the sake of the proximity that dozens of children would have to the drilling and the resultant health issues.
Al Terek of 1155 Pittsburgh Road and 271 McFann Road reminded people of the drilling (conventional) history of the Township.

Melissa Brown of 123 Forsythe Road stated that Attorney Yeager should be permitted to speak. That the zoning ordinance is in place for a reason and that these residents want to work with the Board.

John McManus of 320 West Cruikshank Road feels that things have been blown out of proportion. He stated that within 1.1 miles of the schools there is a petroleum storage center, a railroad and also referred to the number of active gas wells in Pennsylvania.

Comments on this portion regarding unconventional drilling ended at 7:36 pm.

Public Hearings

Weatherburn Heights, Amendment #2 – REVISION #1 (Phase IV)

Tentative Planned Residential Development.

Accept public comment on a Revised Tentative Planned Residential Development (PRD) totaling 39 single-family residential units located on 13.437 acres in the R-AG Residential Agriculture Zoning District.

i. Motion to open the Public Hearing and to accept testimony.

Motion by Marshall, seconded by Evans to open the Public Hearing. Motion carried.

(Hearing was recorded by Kelly Ferrari, Court Stenographer.)

Motion by Evans; seconded by Marshall to close the public Hearing. Motion carried.

Motion by Evans, seconded by Marshall to approve the Revised Tentative Planned Residential Development (PRD) totaling 39 single-family residential units located on 13.437 acres in the R-AG Residential Agriculture Zoning District. Motion carried.
Reports

The following reports are submitted for the Board’s review:


There were no questions regarding the reports submitted to the Board.

Motion by Evans; seconded by Marshall to accept the Reports as submitted. Motion carried.

Minutes

Motion by Evans; seconded by Marshall to approve the minutes of the March 18, 2014 Regular Meeting as submitted. Motion carried.

Warrant List

Warrant List #04-01-2014 is submitted for the Board’s review and approval.

Motion by Evans; seconded by Marshall to approve Warrant List #04-01-2014 as submitted. The Supervisors did question the high amount of the natural gas bill for the month (People TWP). They also questioned what Metro was – police department software. And lastly, who was Wex (Fleet gas cards). Warrant List #04-01-2014 was approved. Supervisor Roll Call vote Ð Don Marshall Ñ Yes; Mike Spreng Ñ Yes.

Correspondence

No agenda item at this time.

Administration

ICMA 2015 Conference Planning Committee.

Motion by Evans; seconded by Marshall the Board of Supervisors to authorize Scot E. Fodi to participate on the 2015 ICMA Annual Conference Planning Committee. Motion carried.
Geyer Farm Well Pad.

No further discussion at this point in the meeting.

Community Development

a. **SD #2014-02: Ford/Pirrung/McCann Lot Line Revision.**


   Motion by Evans; seconded by Marshall to approve *Resolution #10 of 2014* granting both Preliminary and Final approval to the **Ford/Pirrung/McCann Lot Line Revision.** Motion carried.

Zoning Hearing Board

No Agenda item at this time.

Public Works

Public Sewage Update — No report at this time.

Road Department Update —

Motion by Evans; seconded by Marshall to authorize the Township Manager to advertise the **2014 Road Resurfacing and Seal Coat Programs**, respectively. Motion carried.

Public Safety

Motion by Evans; seconded by Marshall to authorize Sergeant Randy Ruediger and Officer Conrad Pfeifer of the Middlesex Township Police Department to attend training at the FBI Facility in West Virginia and further to receive reimbursement for expenses incurred and time. Motion carried.

Department has a new refurbished computer and new ALERT software package. Aggressive Driving will be conducted during April and May.
Culture, Parks & Recreation

The Glade Run Lake Conservancy would like to report that currently we have two fundraisers that are being planned again for this year – the WOW (Where’s Our Water) 10K race on July 19th and an oldies concert – date to be announced later.

Township Solicitor

No agenda item at this time.

Township Engineer

Monthly report enclosed for your review. Engineer to study Weatherburn roads to help with the decision should the Township takeover of these roads.

Public Comments – Non Agenda Items (General Comments)

Janice Kennedy of Deer Meadow Lane asked that the Township Engineer look at and comment on the grading between Deer Meadow Lane and the entrance road to Weatherburn.

Richard Zika of 2024 Eagle Ridge Drive questioned emergency egress from Weatherburn. Currently there is only one way in and out.

Darren Smith of 2012 Eagle Ridge wanted to discuss evacuation plans for the Geyer Farm Well Pad. Mike Hnath said that this was not possible as it was announced to people who already left the meeting that there would be no further discussion on that topic tonight.

Ping Pirrung of 156 West Cruikshank announced that there will be a meeting tomorrow night of the M.O.M (Marcellus Outreach Middlesex) at 7:00 pm here at the Township building. The speaker will address air quality issues.

Adjournment

Motion by Evans, seconded by Marshall, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:28 PM

Scot E. Fodi, Manager / Secretary